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**Elimination of racism and racial discrimination: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

# Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 59/177. It focuses on activities undertaken by States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, international and regional organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and youth groups and organizations to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

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# I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 59/177, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its sixtieth session. The present report focuses on activities relating to the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance since the presentation of the previous report to the General Assembly (A/59/375). In this regard, reference is also made to reports previously submitted on the comprehensive implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions (E/CN.4/2002/21, E/CN.4/2003/18 and Add.1 and 2 and E/CN.4/2004/17) and to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions (A/57/443 and A/58/324).

2. Between 29 April and 2 May 2005, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) sent requests to States, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, international and regional organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for information on follow-up and implementation activities undertaken in the context of the World Conference. In order to facilitate the identification of the relevant global trends, a guidance note on responses was attached to the correspondence. The deadline for the submission of contributions was 30 June 2005. The responses received are summarized in the present report, which also includes responses to a note verbale sent to Governments in November 2004. Original contributions are available for consultation in the Secretariat. Any additional contributions received will be included in the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.

# II. Contributions received

## A. Member States

3. The National Plan against Discrimination of Argentina, prepared with the support of OHCHR, was adopted in July 2005. The Plan consists of an analysis of the discrimination situation in Argentina, including a set of 250 concrete recommendations. The next steps include the promulgation of the Plan by presidential decree.

4. In March 2005, Canada announced "A Canada for All: Canada's Action Plan Against Racism". The Action Plan establishes a horizontal approach across federal departments and agencies and outlines a significant number of new and continuing commitments to combat racism and hate-motivated crime based on ethnic, racial, religious and linguistic grounds. The new initiatives include, inter alia, the strengthening of partnerships between federal institutions and ethnocultural and ethnoracial communities.

5. Chile established the Programme for Tolerance and Non-Discrimination to promote the creation of conditions for the full enjoyment of rights and the participation in public life by those segments of the society vulnerable to discrimination. The Programme works through an inter-ministerial network and a multicultural citizens' network. It has been entrusted with the task of elaborating a

Plan for Equality and Non-Discrimination, which should serve as an orientation toolkit for public institutions. The strategy is to establish a new social contract for Chile, grounded in the goals and principles of international instruments promoting equality and non-discrimination. A dedicated website was created to disseminate information on the plan and its implementation.

6. In keeping with the commitments made at the World Conference, Cuba is continuing its policy to ensure equality for all and to eradicate all vestiges of discrimination in the Cuban society. Since 2001, Cuba has been implementing more than 100 social, educational and cultural programmes geared towards equality and non-discrimination, including the holding of festivals of different cultures, as part of the recognition that Cuban nationality has been shaped by cultures and ethnic groups from Asia, Africa and Europe. Centres of learning provide education and employment programmes to the Cuban population without distinction.

7. Hungary has placed particular emphasis on the promotion of the situation of minorities living in Hungary, especially the Roma community. Government institutions in charge of enhancing the social integration of the Roma population have been reinforced, including a new Ministry for Youth, Family and Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (2004) and a Governmental Office for Equal Opportunities (2004). An Anti-Discrimination Legal Service Network provides free legal aid and has explicit competence in cases where the clients suffer because of their Gypsy descent. In November 2003, the Hungarian Parliament adopted the Bill on Equal Treatment and the Promotion of Equal Opportunities. In March 2004, the Government adopted a new midterm package of measures to promote the integration of the Roma. Local minority self-governments and the National Gypsy Self-Government are essential partners in designing and implementing Roma policy.

8. In 2003, Mexico adopted a federal law for the prevention and elimination of discrimination. The law provided for the creation of the National Council to Prevent Discrimination (CONAPRED), operative since 27 March 2004. CONAPRED has the task of formulating and implementing policies and actions in the field of education and social communication to raise awareness on the phenomena of racism and xenophobia. To this end, the Programme of Promotion and Inter-institutional Cooperation has established collaborative links between public institutions and social and private actors working for the promotion of the rights of vulnerable groups and individuals. CONAPRED also established a service for receiving and processing complaints by alleged victims of discrimination. In 2004, the National Programme to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination (PRONADIS) was elaborated as a result of a consultative process involving the society at large. CONAPRED has created a website and a documentation centre. Public campaigns, radio broadcasts and TV spots, leaflets and posters are also used to disseminate information and raise awareness. On 28 and 29 September 2004, the International Forum on Non-Discrimination was organized in Mexico City to analyse the economic, fiscal and judicial challenges to the implementation of anti-discrimination laws in Latin America and the Caribbean.

9. Since Morocco's ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the constitutional institutions have endeavoured to strengthen and promote the principles of dignity and equality without discrimination on grounds of race, sex, language or religion.

10. Sweden is reviewing its National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Xenophobia, Homophobia and Discrimination (2001) and its National Human Rights Action Plan (2002). A parliamentary committee is currently examining the entire field of anti-discrimination law and policy and should present its report in January 2006. Various institutions, such as the Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination, the Swedish National Integration Board, local anti-discrimination bureaux, the Centre against Racism, the Living History Forum — while having different authority and mandates — all work against discrimination in various fields.

11. In 2001, the Swiss Federal Council established the Fund for Projects against Racism and for Human Rights. Between 2001 and 2005, the Fund supported numerous projects in the field of education, awareness-raising and prevention, and supported institutions either working with victims of racism or engaged in conflict mediation. The Focal Point for the Fight against Racism ensures collaboration between cantons, municipalities and third parties in this area.

## B. Human rights mechanisms

12. During its sixty-sixth and sixty-seventh sessions, held respectively from 21 February to 11 March 2005 and from 2 to 19 August 2005, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) considered reports submitted by 15 States parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Additionally, the Committee reviewed without a report the application of the Convention in five States parties whose reports were seriously overdue, and adopted several decisions under its early warning and urgent action procedures. The Committee also examined several communications from individuals and groups of individuals under article 14 of the Convention. At its sixty-sixth session, the Committee held a thematic discussion on the prevention of genocide in which the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, Juan Méndez, took part. Furthermore, the Committee adopted a statement on the prevention of genocide. The Committee transmits an annual report to the General Assembly (A/60/18).

13. The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Doudou Diène, submitted reports to the sixty-first session of the Commission of Human Rights on defamation of religions (anti-Semitism, Christianophobia and Islamophobia) (E/CN.4/2005/18/Add.4) and the situation of Muslim and Arab peoples in various parts of the world in the aftermath of the events of 11 September 2001 (E/CN.4/2005/19). He also presented reports of his missions to Guatemala, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras and Nicaragua (E/CN.4/2005/18/Add.2, 3, 5, 6). The report on his mission to Japan (3-12 July 2005) will be issued shortly. He participated in a number of seminars and conferences dealing, notably, with anti-Semitism, racism and gender, interreligious dialogue, integration of Muslims and the role of Islam in the European Union. Other special procedures mandate holders have taken into consideration the United Nations anti-discrimination agenda and have integrated it in the work conducted in the framework of their mandates.

14. The Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action held its third session in Geneva from 11 to 22 October 2004. The Working Group conducted a thematic analysis of racism

and health, racism and the Internet, and complementary standards. A report on the session was presented to the Commission (E/CN.4/2005/20). It is to be noted that a large number of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and international and regional organizations participated in the session, including experts from the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Telecommunication Union, the World Health Organization and the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the African Union and the International Organization for Migration.

15. The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent held its fourth session from 25 October 2004 to 5 November 2004. The thematic discussion focused on racism and employment, racism and health, and racism and housing. The Working Group decided to undertake country visits, as they are necessary for the effective discharge of its mandate (see E/CN.4/2005/21). A visit to Belgium took place from 13 to 17 July 2005. The Working Group will present a full report of its findings and recommendations to the Commission at its sixty-second session. The fifth session of the Working Group is scheduled to take place from 29 August to 2 September 2005.

16. The group of independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action held its second meeting in Geneva from 21 to 23 February 2005. They considered that education and awareness-raising campaigns to inform the larger public about the positive aspects of multiculturalism and the importance of tolerance constitute important tools in combating discrimination. They outlined their programme of work (see E/CN.4/2005/125) as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 59/177.

## C. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

17. OHCHR placed the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action among its priorities. Its contribution consists primarily in: (a) extending substantive and organizational support to the mechanisms established in the follow-up to the World Conference and to the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; (b) providing guidance to international and national actors on the work countering racism and xenophobia; (c) collecting and disseminating information on relevant initiatives taken by various stakeholders; (d) providing technical cooperation to partners; (e) facilitating inter-agency coordination; and (f) expanding liaison with NGOs and youth organizations. OHCHR is also developing publications and other awareness-raising and outreach material. The substantive focus of OHCHR was threefold: (a) strengthening the international efforts to promote respect and tolerance in diversified societies; (b) addressing contemporary forms of racism and xenophobia; and (c) developing means and tools to address social exclusion and

other aspects of the inferior position of victims of racism, xenophobia and related discrimination.

18. OHCHR serviced the meetings of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, as well as those of the independent eminent experts on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. It provided substantive and organizational support to the meetings, drafted information notes and background papers, made relevant documentation available, identified panellists and experts to participate in the sessions, drafted the reports and followed up on recommendations adopted by these bodies. OHCHR also facilitated the debate with a view to strengthening cooperation and coordination between these bodies and thus enhancing their impact.

19. OHCHR and the Pan-American Health Organization jointly organized a regional workshop for the Latin American and Caribbean Region in Brasilia from 1 to 3 December 2004 on "Ensuring that the Millennium Development Goals contribute to overcoming discrimination based on race, colour, descent, national and ethnic origin in Latin America and the Caribbean Region" (see E/CN.4/2005/22). OHCHR also organized a subregional seminar for States members of the Economic Community of Central African States on the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance through inclusive participation in public life, in cooperation with the Government of Gabon (Libreville, 27-29 July 2005) and a regional expert seminar on the implementation of the right to education as a tool to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Bangkok, 19-21 September 2005).

20. Technical cooperation was provided by OHCHR under the Assisting Communities Together (ACT) project. The project — started in 2002 — ended in 2005: NGOs, grass-roots organizations and schools received financial support for 23 projects in the field of education against racism in Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Uruguay.

21. OHCHR worked together with United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, and international and regional intergovernmental organizations. Some instances of cooperation are elaborated further in the present report. Another specific example is cooperation with UNESCO on the International Coalition of Cities against Racism project, sharing the responsibility of its scientific and technical secretariat. This Coalition consists of networks of cities interested in sharing experiences in order to improve their policies to fight racism, discrimination and xenophobia. OHCHR participated in a working meeting between the Bangkok Municipal Authority and UNESCO for the preparation of a meeting of the Coalition of Cities against Racism and Discrimination in Asia and the Pacific in July 2005. OHCHR also contributed to the work of the Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance convened by OSCE in Cordoba, Spain, in June 2005.

22. Liaison with NGOs and youth groups included the following:

(a) Sharing information on a regular basis and facilitating NGO and youth participation in meetings, seminars and workshops to which the Anti-Discrimination Unit is invited or convenes;

(b) Participation in and financial support for the organization of an expert seminar on "Defamation of religions and the global combat against racism: Anti-Semitism, Christianophobia, Islamophobia", hosted by the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia from 11 to 14 November 2004.

23. Publications, awareness-raising and outreach activities embraced:

(a) A book, *Dimensions of Racism*, in English, French and Spanish. This publication has been prepared in the follow-up to a workshop jointly organized by OHCHR and UNESCO on the theme "Combating racism and fostering tolerance";

(b) A drawing contest for students in Colombia, Mexico, Mongolia, South Africa and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia organized by OHCHR field presences to promote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The selected drawings have served to illustrate a new OHCHR poster on the Universal Declaration, issued in the six official languages of the Organization;

(c) A panel discussion on "Discrimination and hate crimes: countering the violence of intolerance" convened in Geneva on 21 March 2005 to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

(d) Leaflets about the mandate and activities of its Anti-Discrimination Unit disseminated in the six official languages.

## D. United Nations system

24. The United Nations Department of Public Information undertakes activities to promote the work of OHCHR, CERD and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Information is disseminated through a multimedia approach. In 2004, the Department organized two seminars on "Unlearning Intolerance", one on anti-Semitism and another on Islamophobia. The elimination of discrimination also figures among the topics of the Department's Training Programme for Broadcasters and Journalists from Developing Countries and the Training Programme for Palestinian Media Practitioners. The United Nations Information Centre in Warsaw launched a special website on discrimination and related intolerance, while the United Nations Information Centre in Dhaka organized a theatrical play on tolerance.

25. At the third session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action in October 2004, the UNAIDS representative highlighted the complex linkages that exist between discrimination, poverty and HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS further supported the development of a publication, "HIV-related Stigma, Discrimination and Human Rights Violations", illustrating the importance of being proactive in preventing stigmatization.

26. Within its Integrated Strategy to Combat Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, UNESCO established the European Coalition of Cities against Racism. This strategy also includes a research programme on the development of indicators on racism and discrimination in the cities. The two-day celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March), organized with the National Union of Students in France, included

exchanges between students and local French authorities. At the same time, the sixth International Festival of Film against Exclusion and for Tolerance took place at UNESCO headquarters.

## E. National human rights institutions

27. In 2005, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission of Australia organized the Voices project, marking the thirtieth anniversary of the Racial Discrimination Act. The project will publish stories from migrants, refugees, indigenous Australians and the general community about living together with people from different backgrounds. The Commission will also publish the fourth edition of *Face the Facts*, which endeavours to counter popular myths and misinformation that surround debates on refugees, migrants and indigenous peoples. The Ismaξ (Listen) project was launched in response to increasing concerns about the rise in anti-Arab and anti-Muslim prejudice. Since the Cyber-Racism Symposium (2002), the Commission has striven to limit racially offensive material on the Internet. The focus of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner is on indigenous people. The Commissioner reports annually to the Parliament and prepares the *Social Justice Report* and the *Native Title Report*.

28. The Centre for equal opportunities and opposition to racism of Belgium provided OHCHR with information on Belgian anti-discrimination legislation, the organization of a reporting and monitoring system for racist crimes, the process of maintaining statistics of the treatment of racist crimes by the criminal justice system and the publication of annual reports on racist crimes. The Centre has a special unit monitoring anti-Semitic acts. Projects are ongoing to foster intercultural dialogue and understanding of cultural, religious and philosophical diversity in Belgium, notably in schools and police education programmes. The Centre cooperates with European Union anti-discrimination institutions.

29. The National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms of Cameroon indicated that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are virtually non-existent in Cameroon. The Commission is, however, active in the promotion of human rights through radio programmes and the distribution of posters and brochures.

30. The primary objective of the Danish Institute for Human Rights is to protect and promote human rights with a particular mandate to combat racial discrimination and promote ethnic equal treatment, through education, training, dissemination of information and the organization of seminars and conferences. In 2005 and 2006, projects will focus on primary schools. The Institute's Council on Human Rights has a Committee on Equal Treatment. The Institute's Complaints Committee on Ethnic Equal Treatment was established in 2003 to handle complaints of discrimination on grounds of race and ethnic origin. The Institute is preparing a book addressing specific human rights challenges in the information society, including Internet, discrimination and hate speech. The Institute further cooperates with the European Union anti-discrimination institutions.

31. The second goal of the Strategic Plan 2004-2006 of the Fiji Human Rights Commission aims at healthy race relations and the elimination of all forms of discrimination. This requires the Commission to monitor and analyse bills and policies of the Government, raise awareness, establish an effective conciliation

process and undertake court actions for unresolved cases. In March 2004, the Commission established a Race Relation Unit, whose initial activities include awareness-raising as well as obtaining information on the extent of race issues and problems in Fiji. The Commission further organizes a yearly poster competition on race relations for young people. In July 2005, the Commission conducted a workshop for indigenous rights activists and nationalists.

32. Each year, on 21 March, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the French National Consultative Commission of Human Rights submits a report to the Government on the fight against racism. The 2004 report indicated a rise in acts of anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia, including racism towards immigrants. The report addressed the propagation of racism through the Internet. The Commission awards two human rights prizes each year. The Commission advises the Government of France on improvements to anti-discrimination legislation. The Commission further cooperates with the European Union institutions and international organizations combating discrimination.

33. According to the National Human Rights Commission of India, xenophobia and racial discrimination are not an issue in India. There are, however, caste-related problems. Based on a report on the prevention of atrocities against Scheduled Castes, the Commission's Dalit unit conducted a sensitization workshop for senior officials in the northern region of India, while the Commission made recommendations to both the Union and state Governments. These recommendations included the appointment of exclusive special courts where the magnitude of atrocity cases is growing and a training programme for police and civil servants. With assistance from OHCHR, the Commission is also preparing a handbook for teachers on "Discrimination based on sex, caste, religion and disability".

34. The Islamic Human Rights Commission in the Islamic Republic of Iran reported that despite a legal framework to combat discrimination, the implementation of the rights of minorities, including ethnic groups, recognized religious minorities, non-recognized religious minorities and women, remains a problem. The Commission is therefore devising a national plan of action. The Commission collaborates with all three branches of Government, and especially with the Parliament. The Commission's new website offers the possibility to lodge complaints online and to disseminate reports on human rights violations.

35. In its first strategic plan, "Promoting and Protecting Human Rights in Irish Society: A Plan for 2003-2006", the Irish Human Rights Commission considers the fight against racism to be one of the priority cross-cutting areas of its work. The Commission was actively involved in the Steering Group on the Government's National Action Plan against Racism and worked closely with Traveller organizations on the recognition of their culture and identity. The Commission has contributed to the initial report submitted by Ireland to CERD.

36. From 2000 to 2003, the Malawi Human Rights Commission ran the "One Malawi against Discrimination and Intolerance — Unity for Peace" peacebuilding programme. The programme tackled discrimination and intolerance on various grounds. It revealed that politically motivated manifestations of discrimination, violence and intolerance are the most prevalent in Malawi. The Commission has further undertaken activities to curb discriminatory tendencies, particularly in political discourse, organized workshops for youths and supported initiatives by

civil society organizations. Countering the dissemination of racism via the Internet is part of its implementation of the peacebuilding programme.

37. The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) has focused its work on the promotion of the rights of marginalized groups as identified in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. This is done through (field) research, reporting, round-table dialogues and seminars. On the issue of migrant workers, the Commission cooperates informally with the national human rights institutions of Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. The Commission and the Government work closely together on the integration of human rights education into secondary schools. The Commission has established a Media Complaints Committee to investigate complaints of unethical conduct by the media and is encouraging the development of a media council.

38. The National Human Rights Commission of Mexico is involved in various programmes and actions to counter racism and racial discrimination. In September 2004, it adopted a general recommendation on discrimination in schools against children affected by HIV/AIDS. In January 2005, the Commission established the Quinta Visitaduría General to deal with issues and alleged violations of migrants' human rights. In 2004, the Commission issued 11 Braille publications on the protection and promotion of human rights of vulnerable groups. A publication entitled "United for Respect for Diversity" was published and translated in local languages. A national photographic competition was organized to show how the elimination of social, cultural, architectural and physical barriers has allowed the inclusion and development of persons with disabilities. Another competition, entitled "Are We Equal?", has been organized in 2005 for children from 6 to 13, together with the third "Images of Life, Diversity, Human Rights and HIV/AIDS" competition. An international workshop on "Indigenous women between violence and discrimination" has been organized by the Commission in its capacity of *pro tempore* secretariat of the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of the American Continent.

39. The Human Rights Commission of New Zealand undertook an extensive research and public consultation process in 2003 and 2004, which resulted in a report, *Human Rights in New Zealand Today*, and in the New Zealand Action Plan for Human Rights. The Action Plan provides a strategic framework to counter racism and promote diversity. Actions were proposed on race-related issues such as social and economic inequality, rights of indigenous peoples, languages, refugee and migrant settlement and cultural diversity. The Commission observes 21 March as Race Relations Day and in March 2005 published a report, *Race Relations in 2004*. The Commission plays a central role in the New Zealand Diversity Action Programme, which includes, inter alia, the promotion of diversity on the Internet. The Commission facilitates an interfaith network and initiated a language policy network. It also advises the Government on aspects of race-related measures and contributed to the review of Government data collection on ethnicity.

40. The National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria discusses human rights implications of communal, religious and ethnic clashes and the resulting displacements with the competent authorities of the communities. Reports of these forums are forwarded to the Government for appropriate action. The Commission developed a strategic workplan focusing on the rights of children and women and on communal conflicts.

41. The Defensoría del Pueblo of Peru has launched projects to fight different forms of discrimination. The reduction of exclusion from public policies is one of its main interests. It follows up on the conclusions of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to guarantee the inclusion of the population affected by the political violence that Peru suffered. The Defensor del Pueblo (Ombudsman) gives ample attention to the situation of indigenous peoples. His Office presented an action against article 269 of the Military Justice Code and the sentence of the Constitutional Court supported the claim: military justice is now incompetent to punish homosexual practices. The ongoing revision of the Penal Code includes incorporation of measures against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

42. The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines indicated that even before the Durban World Conference, the Philippine Human Rights Plan for 1996 to 2000 had recognized indigenous peoples and Muslims as vulnerable groups. Legislation also exists on policies to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia or other forms of intolerance, or to promote non-discrimination and equality. The Commission has been called to congressional hearings to discuss concerns related to indigenous peoples. The METAGORA (Measuring Democracy, Human Rights and Governance) project, under the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, measures the human rights situation of indigenous peoples.

43. The Swedish Ombudsman against Ethnic Discrimination assists those subjected to ethnic and religious discrimination. Its main activity consists of investigating individual complaints, taking measures to prevent discrimination and organizing seminars. The Ombudsman promotes the necessary changes in the legislation and informs the Government on what measures it ought to take to support the Ombudsman's work. The Ombudsman, together with the Ombudsman against Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation and the Disability Ombudsman, uses the Internet and television for information and awareness-raising purposes. The Ombudsman cooperates with the police to combat discrimination in restaurants and liaises with the Roma. The Ombudsman also works with the Equal Opportunities Ombudsman.

## F. Civil society: non-governmental organizations, youth groups and other organizations

44. Interfaith International, a Geneva-based NGO, in coordination with the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the United Nations (CONGO), convened a meeting entitled "Clash of civilizations" on 23 March 2005, during the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights. For the participants, the main cause of conflicts between peoples is not that ethnicities are irreconcilable, but that differing economic development facilitates ethnic conflict. Participants considered that religion is often tied to the history of specific ethnic or national groups and that "ethnic-based" religions have often been imposed upon colonized peoples. As a result, religion is not necessarily a source of conflict, although religion, when linked to ethnicity, can be used by political groups to achieve and retain power.

45. The International Network of Liberal Women reported on a programme launched to commemorate the sixtieth Memorial Day of women who survived the concentration camps in Germany during the Second World War. On 16 and 17 April 2005, the organization participated in a ceremony held at the Ravensbrück concentration camp, where women were killed and/or subjected to hard labour, sexual violence and forced sterilization because of racial discrimination and ideological intolerance.

46. The International Centre of Sociological, Penal and Penitentiary Research and Studies of Italy organized several seminars on "Foreign minors and justice; towards an intercultural approach", in collaboration with the Chair of Juridical Psychology of the University "La Sapienza" in Rome. The Centre also organized a colloquium on "Human rights at the dawn of the third millennium: universality and intercultural dialogue" and a meeting on "The right to education for vulnerable groups with respect to their cultural diversity", organized in collaboration with UNESCO. It also participated in an international specialist course for police forces on "Policing in multicultural societies".

47. The Helsinki Monitor of Slovenia, a member of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, documented human rights violations in Slovenia related to non-Slovene inhabitants. The organization also reported that a campaign to raise awareness of the human rights situation of non-nationals in Slovenia had been launched as a result of the presentation of a shadow report on the country's situation to CERD.

48. The International Association of Democratic Lawyers published a book entitled *Racism and Racial Discrimination: A Study Submitted to the UNESCO*. This study focuses on new forms of racism and racial discrimination, and new methods in the struggle to meet the challenges. The structure of the study was developed within the framework of the international instruments that promote equality. Three major subjects are analysed in the book: "Racism: A Scourge for the Third Millennium?", "On Racism: Global Fair Banking Initiative-Development Phase" and "The New Shapes of Racism and Discrimination".

49. The National Council of German Women's Organizations initiated a networking project with human rights organizations in Germany that are currently monitoring the draft of the national anti-discrimination law. The Council dedicated an issue of its bimonthly magazine *Die Information der Frau* to discussion of intercultural dialogue. The organization reported that it has lobbied the Government and the parliament concerning the new migration law in Germany, which was adopted in July 2004. In this context, the organization invited the relevant members of civil society to a conference on "Problems in the development of integration and new ways for successful integration policies".

50. The International Association Ius Primi Viri and the Centre for Human Evolution Studies, based in Italy, continue their work to raise consciousness of the fundamental values inborn in every human being as tools to prevent discrimination. The organizations coordinated several courses addressed to university students, human rights trainers, teachers and social workers. Their activities include a course on "Racism, xenophobia and intolerance: plurality of cultures and universality of human rights", another on "The multicultural school", an advanced course for educators and trainers on human rights education entitled "Acquiring the scientific foundations of the universality of human rights", as well as a programme on

"Integrated anthropology". The organizations also took part in the OSCE Conference on Tolerance and the Fight against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination (Brussels, September 2004), where they presented a paper entitled "An integrated methodology to promote intercultural comprehension and respect for diversity".

51. The Romanian Independent Society of Human Rights reported on its work assisting individuals who were victims of torture while under arrest or in detention. The organization also provides human rights training to persons deprived of freedom and legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, refugees and asylum-seekers.

52. The Association pour la formation et l'insertion sociale de l'adolescent et de la femme (AFISAF), in Cameroon, documented discriminations suffered by the Pygmy and Bororos communities. According to AFISAF, these two indigenous nomadic peoples are in danger of disappearing owing to exploitation of the forest and legislation prohibiting hunting. The organization also reported on its work of raising awareness about the dangers encountered by women who are victims of trafficking in persons. As preventive measures, the organization supports female empowerment and autonomy by providing access to microcredit and training in entrepreneurial management.

53. The Association pour le progrès et la défense des droits des femmes (ADPF) of Mali provided information about a campaign which assists women belonging to ethnic minorities in obtaining birth and marriage certificates. ADPF reported that on Human Rights Day (10 December 2004) it promoted a series of seminars in schools on the content of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The seminars had a special focus on the promotion of non-discriminatory and equal education and treatment at school and at home.

54. The BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights manages a website that provides information on the situation of Palestinian refugees as well as statistics and legal analysis concerning refugee protection and long-term solutions, which help to counter discriminatory, racist and xenophobic messages. BADIL submitted reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the ongoing violations of the fundamental rights and freedoms of refugee women in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, to the United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs in the Occupied Territories, and on the partnership with the Israeli NGO Zochrot working on awareness-raising programmes such as the Nakba Memorial, commemorating the massive Palestinian eviction and dispossession in 1948. BADIL has also joined the Occupied Palestinian and Syrian Golan Heights Advocacy Initiative.

55. The Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University provided information on the development of the initiative "Ubuntu: Awakening the Spirit of Humanity", which consisted of a series of debates and workshops on the cultural and spiritual values that correspond to the way of life that in some parts of Africa is called "Ubuntu". The University is developing this project as part of a wider initiative called "The Serve Africa Project: Developing the Inner Being", which is intended to help the African continent to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. To this end, the University has promoted a series of courses in self-development and positive thinking. The University also promotes religious tolerance and unity through

organizing and participating in interfaith events, such as the Inner Voice of Peace, an event of interfaith dialogue that will take place in India in October 2005.

56. The Canadian Race Relations Foundation (CRRF) reported on the activities promoted in the field of redress and reparation, particularly regarding the situation of Chinese Canadians and African Canadians in Africville, Nova Scotia, calling on the competent Governments to consider redress and reparations respectively for these communities and to develop a policy position on redress and reparations. CRRF is also working with the UNESCO Commission in Canada to promote the Coalition of Cities against Racism. This past year, the Foundation hosted delegations from Sweden, Brazil and Mexico who participated in meetings exploring and analysing different human rights situations and ways of redress. The CRRF website continues to be a primary vehicle for disseminating information, educating and promoting public awareness on anti-racism issues in Canada, and publicizing the work of the organization.

57. The Centre féminin pour la promotion du développement (CEFEPROD), based in Cameroon, provided information about the establishment of a virtual forum "ICT for ALL NETWORK". The forum is an efficient and constant tool for the exchange of ideas and debate on social and cultural changes occurring at the national, regional and international levels. Different stakeholders, including civil society organizations, the Government and the private sector, participate in these debates. Currently, the forum features a focus on the struggle for dignity, social justice and development. The Centre is also active in the field of education and training in the promotion and protection of human rights and provides some research grants to women and young students.

58. The International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE), based in Belgium, reported on an initiative entitled "Stop Caste Discrimination — Support the Dalits" run through Cordaid, a member organization in the Netherlands, and Justicia et Pax Netherlands. The project informs the public about discrimination based on caste and descent and lobbies European Governments to take the necessary action in this regard. CIDSE also provided information about a research project that aims to develop an analytical policy document establishing the main lines for advocacy to achieve effective participation of minorities in public life. The project intends to address the reconciliation of diversity and social cohesion. In this regard, four case studies were presented: the Roma, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and the new minorities in the Netherlands. Participants identified education as an important vehicle for integration.

59. Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) is a network of associations of persons with disabilities, with members in 135 countries; it seeks to engage individuals with all kinds of disabilities in economic life. DPI reported that the African movement of disabled people should be commended for its work in supporting South African disability organizations in their action against institutionalized apartheid. The Americas section has developed links with the Disability and Development sector of the World Bank through its inclusive development programme. DPI in the Americas works closely with the Disabled Peoples' Organization of the Caribbean, an indigenous Caribbean organization supported by the Caribbean Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

60. The Dženo Association of the Czech Republic provided information about its work on the promotion and protection of Roma human rights and culture in Central

and Eastern Europe. The organization stated that it believes that information is a powerful weapon to promote understanding between peoples and thus reduce discrimination, xenophobia and racially motivated violence. Dženo reported on its work towards improving public understanding of Roma culture and issues through its website, which provides daily news on issues concerning the Roma. It operates through an online radio station, broadcasting news and music in Czech, Romani and English. Dženo also works to preserve Romany culture and music through the publication of books and CDs.

61. The Federation of Cuban Women stated that the issue of anti-discrimination represents a core dimension of its mission. The Federation promotes a TV programme entitled "*Cuando una Mujer*", which is a weekly programme that condemns any form of racial intolerance or discrimination, concepts of ethno-racial superiority and gender-based discrimination. The Federation also publishes a magazine, *Mujeres y Muchachas*, that promotes racial and cultural diversity of the country in appropriate and non-discriminatory language. The organization has a website, which promotes gender equality and is a source of non-discriminatory information.

62. Global Rights, based in Washington, D.C., has developed various programmes throughout the United States and Latin America to combat racial discrimination. It contributes to this issue within the inter-American human rights machinery. Global Rights provided information on its work on affirmative action programmes to promote equality, and highlighted that the exchange of experiences and models of affirmative action programmes throughout the region is a key element to the advancement of equal access to education. With regard to engagement in Latin America, Global Rights stated that it wishes to increase the capacity of human rights advocates in Latin America to combat racial discrimination, particularly by providing technical support. At the regional level, Global Rights aims to build the capacity of civil society actors to lobby Governmental delegations and to intervene before regional bodies in furtherance of their goals. Global Rights also promotes training programmes on human rights that focus especially on the use of international human rights instruments as tools for overturning discriminatory domestic laws and policies.

63. The UNESCO Centre of Catalonia (UNESCOCAT) produced educational materials regarding non-discrimination and equality. These materials were specifically developed with a view to their use by regional and local police forces in the framework of training courses with a special focus on anti-discrimination. Since May 2005, UNESCOCAT has managed the Inter-religious Centre of Barcelona, which proactively promotes the religious freedom of citizens and good relations between the different religions and beliefs, including non-religious views, present in the city. UNESCOCAT promotes migrant women's rights. In coordination with the Secretariat for Immigration of the Catalan Government, UNESCOCAT produced a bilingual information brochure entitled "Migrant Women: The New Regulations of the Legislation on Foreigners", with versions in Catalan and Spanish and the main migrant languages spoken in Barcelona.

64. The World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, based in Canada, serves the community radio movement, with almost 3,000 members and associates in 110 countries in all regions of the world. The Association reported that every year it organizes an initiative called "Radio Voices Without Frontiers", a 24-hour

international and multilingual broadcast to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March. This event is also accessible through the website of the organization and can be freely rebroadcast.

65. The English International Association of Lund reported on its engagement in the field of human rights education with local high schools. The organization stated that it maintains regular seminars and study circles on anti-racism and discrimination and encourages the use of communication tools such as websites and the newsletter "The Lundian". The organization also publishes a newsletter and sends out e-mails to individuals and public institutions engaged in promoting affirmative action addressed to groups vulnerable to racism.

66. The Lutheran World Federation reported on the promotion of a regional consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean entitled "Challenges of citizenship in a globalizing world", which took place in Cobán, Guatemala, in May 2005. A recurrent theme of the consultations concerned the possibility of building truly inclusive societies in the Latin American region. The participants also discussed the existence of tension between defending certain, presumably universal, values developed from Western, Christian and Enlightenment traditions and the need to take different cultural particularities seriously.

67. Survival International Limited, a NGO based in the United Kingdom, reported on its action with regard to the protection of the human rights of the Bushmen (Basarwa/San) in Botswana. The organization considered that the Basarwa/San peoples suffer from cultural, social, economic and political exclusion and do not enjoy group rights to land. The organization expressed concern at expressions of prejudice against the Basarwa/San people, including those made by public officials.

68. Soroptimist International (SI) provided information about its programme of activities aimed at enhancing respect for all cultures and halting all forms of discrimination through increased tolerance and mutual understanding. SI has been supporting a series of performances for children in a theatre located in Bamberg, Germany, which dealt with problems such as violence in schools, xenophobia and the sexual harassment of children. An SI section in Munich, Germany, has worked closely with the Centre for Counselling and Treatment of Exiled Refugees and Victims of Torture. Finally, SI has promoted a partnership with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to create a network of Young Women Peace Ambassadors who will work with refugees and internally displaced children in countries where violence is a growing issue.

69. The Human Rights Defence Centre (KEPAD), based in Greece, focuses on human rights education and awareness-raising with regard to the issues of trafficking in persons and anti-discrimination. The issue of racism and discrimination was extensively discussed during the most recent fourth annual Olympia Human Rights Programme, devoted to topics related to migrants and refugees. This educational activity involved the participation of partners from the Balkans and Eastern Europe. The next major KEPAD project towards the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action is the establishment of the ARIADNE network against trafficking in persons.

70. The Center for Interethnic Cooperation, based in Moscow, is active in the field of protection of national minorities and interaction between ethnic associations, law-enforcement bodies involved in minority issues and the mass media. The Center also

carries out research on the relationship between minority issues and law-enforcement organs. The Center promoted the following seminars: "Ethnic associations and local authorities: possibilities for optimizing dialogue", "International education inside the regional education system" and "Contacts as a basis for successful communication within interethnic relations". A conference entitled "Strategies for the development of Russia's ethnic communities" was held on 28 and 29 February, bringing together ethnic leaders from various parts of the Russian Federation as well as a number of regional administrators. The Center has promoted several micro-projects with institutional and non-governmental partners. The "Youth tolerance school" initiative consisted of a series of lessons and educational activities. This micro-project aimed to foster the principles of ethnic and religious tolerance among young people and to involve them in the fight against xenophobia and ethnic intolerance. "The salon 'Cooperation' invites its guests" is a micro-project in Perm to empower regional and local NGOs.

71. The Movimiento Nacional Afrocolombiano CIMARRON reported that in recent months it has carried out training courses in various regions of the country and organized marches on a national scale against racism and racial discrimination, among which it highlighted the large Afro-Colombian march on 21 March, and the march on 21 May, National Afro-Colombian Day (which coincides with the anniversary of the abolition of slavery in Colombia). Finally, the organization reported that its 2005 report would be on the human rights situation of the Afro-Colombian population. The organization has also supported the National Network of Afro-Colombian Women.

72. The fundamental objective of the Organizaciones Mundo Afro is the fight against racism and the promotion of the Afro-descendant community in Uruguay. In 2005, the organization initiated a collaborative process towards the creation of an association of Afro-descendants' organizations in Uruguay. Mundo Afro reported, inter alia, on a seminar on "Racial discrimination and the judicial system" held in Montevideo, which addressed racial discrimination and the legal system, the treatment of racial discrimination in Uruguayan jurisprudence and the principle of equality. Racial minorities in Latin America and policies of affirmative action in the judicial sphere were also considered. The seminar also looked at the similarities and differences between the experiences of Brazil and the United States.

73. The International Islamic Relief Organization, based in Saudi Arabia, conducts its disaster and war relief work on purely humanitarian grounds, without distinction based on ethnicity, language or religion. Its fields of operations have included Bosnia, Kosovo and Rwanda, in many cases actively promoting non-discrimination. The organization's most recent activities concentrated on tsunami aid, particularly in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

74. The Kawa Association for Kurdish Culture (KAKC), based in Iraq, reported on the seminars organized to promote understanding between Kurds, Arabs, Turkmen and Assyrians. KAKC also organized a cultural week when Kurds from Turkey, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq discussed Kurdish culture in their respective countries. In September 2004, KAKC organized a Kurdish-Arab Friendship Conference that was attended by 500 people from more than 10 countries.

75. The Equal Opportunities Commission handles discrimination issues in the field of sex, marital status, pregnancy, family status and disability in the Hong Kong

Special Administrative Region of China. The Commission works closely with the Hong Kong Government Race Relation Unit, which deals with discriminatory practices relating to race.

## III. Conclusions

76. **The present report demonstrates that the momentum of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance continues. Numerous responses were received from Governments, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations: all are acting against racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance, using the platform of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. The responses also indicate growing cooperation and mutual assistance between different stakeholders. New forms of racism are receiving increasing attention. Governments are reacting more often against cybercrime and/or the dissemination of racist ideologies via the Internet. At the same time, Governments, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations are using the Internet to inform the public about their work and to spread positive messages of equality and non-discrimination. Slowly, a trend is developing towards reporting and monitoring — often using statistics — of racist crimes and incidents. Finally, the contributions show that 21 March, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, remains a rallying point all around the world.**